



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
525 NE Oregon Street
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

April 2, 2002

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way, N
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Dear Dr. Koenings:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently completed an evaluation of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) developed for the preservation and recovery of Hood Canal summer chum salmon. These fish are protected as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). We determined that the HGMPs meet hatchery criteria defined in the ESA 4(d) Rule for listed Hood Canal summer chum salmon, and that the plans therefore qualify for limits on ESA take prohibitions. It is our belief that the HGMPs will make significant contributions to the abundance, distribution, and eventual recovery of the listed summer chum salmon and I was pleased to approve them on behalf of NMFS.

I congratulate WDFW on the development and implementation of the HGMPs. In doing so, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of several individuals in your agency whose outstanding work and dedication made these summer chum salmon conservation programs possible.

Mr. Jim Ames of the WDFW Fish Program authored many sections of the co-manager's *Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative*, the overarching, proposed recovery plan on which the approved WDFW HGMPs are based. He also directed the initiative's completion and submittal to NMFS for our consideration. Mr. Ames' work in identifying the individual populations comprising the summer chum Evolutionarily Significant Unit and their extinction risk status was pivotal in guiding the implementation of supplementation and reintroduction program actions. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

Mr. Thom Johnson, District Fish Biologist in Region 6, should be highly commended for completing the HGMPs reviewed by NMFS, guiding on-the-ground actions described in the HGMPs, and implementing the HGMPs consistent with ESA protective requirements.

We would also like to acknowledge Ms. Ginna Correa's hard work in implementing cooperative summer chum salmon recovery programs in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca region with local volunteer groups. Recent summer chum adult returns to Chimacum Creek, where the population had become extirpated, is evidence of Ms. Correa's good work and we hope that she will

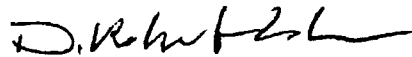


continue her involvement in summer chum salmon recovery programs during her tenure with the Washington Conservation Commission.

Finally, our appreciation is extended to Dr. Steve Schroder. Dr. Schroeder's invaluable work in Hood Canal watersheds with volunteer and private fish enhancement groups involved in HGMP implementation is leading to the collection of critical scientific information on the benefits, risks, and effectiveness of summer chum salmon supplementation actions. We understand summer chum salmon spawning in Big Beef Creek, another stream where summer chum salmon were extirpated, approached 900 fish this year due, in large part, to his efforts.

Although there are other WDFW staff members who have been invaluable in implementing summer chum salmon recovery actions, I have highlighted these four people because of their outstanding individual contributions to the HGMPs. We look forward to our continued work with the Department in preserving, protecting, and restoring Hood Canal summer salmon.

Sincerely,



D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

cc: Jim Ames, WDFW, Fish Program
Thom Johnson, WDFW Region 6
Ginna Correa, WDFW Region 6
Steve Schroeder, WDFW, Fish Program
Tim Flint, WDFW, Fish Program
Lew Atkins, WDFW, Fish Program
Randy Harder, Point No Point Treaty Council
Gary Graves, NWIFC